

Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SNM-01 L-01 SP-02

PM-02 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 SY-02 PRS-01 IO-03 IGA-01

(ISO) W

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R 181125Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 864

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 2791

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, PINR, PINT, TH, US

SUBJ: ANTI- NARCOTICS PROGRAM

1. THE DCM INVITED POLICE MAJOR GENERAL PHAO SARASIN TO A LUNCH FEBRUARY 14 TO REVIEW THE STATE OF THAI-U.S. COOPERATION ON THE ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAM. PHAO HAD EARLIER EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS TO THE DEA REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE ABOUT THE NEWLY APPOINTED ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE THAI NATIONAL POLICE DEPARTMENT (TNPD), POLICE LT GEN PHOT PHEKANAN. GIVEN PHOT'S REPUTATION FOR CORRUPTION AND HIS INDIRECT IMPLICATION IN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING, PHAO HAD CONTENTED IN THIS EARLIER CONVERSATION THAT THE ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAM WOULD HAVE TO GO INTO SUSPENSION UNTIL PHOT'S RETIREMENT ON 1 OCTOBER 1975.

2. DURING THE LUNCH, HOWEVER, PHAO WAS CONSIDERABLY MORE OPTIMISTIC. HE HAD CONSULTED THAT MORNING WITH THE POLICE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL, POLICE LIEUTENANT GENERAL CHUMPHON LOHACHALA. CHUMPHON HAD URGED PHAO TO CONTINUE HIS ANTI-NARCOTICS WORK AS BEFORE. IF HE ENCOUNTERED ANY PROBLEMS, PHAO WAS TO USE CHUMPHON TO RUN INTERFERENCE WITH PHOT. PHAO ADDITIONALLY COMMENTED THAT PHOT, WHO AFTER ALL HAS ONLY SOME SEVEN MONTHS BEFORE RETIREMENT, WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO DO ANYTHING FURTHER TO TARNISH HIS REPUTATION. PHOT WANTED HIS FOURTH STAR BADLY,
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AND WOULD PROBABLY NOT MAKE MUCH OF AN IMPRESSION, EITHER

PLUS OR MINUS, ON THE TNPD.

3. PHAO ALSO INDICATED THAT THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY THAT THE INCOMING DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT MIGHT NOT CONFIRM PHOT AS DIRECTOR GENERAL. IN ANY EVENT, HE ADVISED US TO HOLD OFF ON MAKING AN OFFICIAL CALL ON PHOT UNTIL THE "ACTING" DROPPED FROM HIS TITLE OR UNTIL SOMEONE ELSE IS IN HIS PLACE.

4. COMMENT: WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY PHAO'S OPTIMISM, BUT WILL WITHHOLD JUDGMENT ON THE IMPACT OF PHOT'S APPOINTMENT UNTIL WE SEE HOW HE SETTLED INTO THE JOB IF HE IS CONFIRMED BY THE NEW GOVERNMENT.
KINTNER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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